

JUN - 4 2001

## Community Advisory Group Evaluation

MONTANA OFFICE

Date: MAY-14/2001Name(optional): MEL PARKER  
LEBAH PARKER.

Please complete this evaluation form and mail it in the envelope provided. OR indicate your preference for a phone interview and mail the form in the same envelope.

☐ I prefer to have someone call me for an interview.

My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_.

The best time to reach me is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Community Advisory Group Formation

1. What were the main issues for the Libby community prior to formation of the Community Advisory Group (CAG)? WE HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH AN ASBESTOS PROBLEM. HOW ARE WE GOING TO ADDRESS THIS? HOW INVOLVED WILL THE GOVT. BECOME. WHAT ACTUALLY WAS THE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE TO THIS POPULATION? IS CLEAN-UP IMMINENT? HOW INVOLVED WILL W.R. GRACE BECOME.

The Libby CAG was formed in February 2000. There are currently 21 members.

2. Are you a member or an alternate member? ☐ yes ☒ no
3. What group of residents do you represent? (Optional) THOSE FOLKS LOOKING TO CLEAN UP THE ASBESTOS AND TO ESTABLISH A LONG TERM TRUST FUND FOR ASBESTOS DIAGNOSED VICTIMS.
4. Have you been a member of the group since it began? ☐ yes ☒ no
5. What, if any, role did EPA play in establishing the group? [Check all that apply]
- ☒ Sponsor an initial public meeting
  - ☒ Prepare and distribute materials to inform residents about the Community Advisory Group and how to participate
  - ☐ Suggest appropriate members
  - ☒ Assist Community Advisory Group members in developing a mission statement and operating procedures
  - ☒ Provide a copy of the CAG Toolkit or other useful materials
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Explain: PROVIDE DATA FOR ACCESSING FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS, FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES.
  - ☐ I don't know

6. How were members selected? MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT PARTICIPATION FROM VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS, BUSINESSES, INSTITUTIONS, E.D.C, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD PROVIDE A BROAD REPRESENTATION

7. Was EPA's involvement in the group's establishment helpful? Yes no  
What was most helpful? Least helpful?

THE E.P.A. HAS THE EXPERTISE THROUGH PREVIOUS SITUATIONS TO TAP INTO THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT. THIS NEEDED TO BE DONE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY. WHICH IT WAS! THIS TO ME WAS THE MOST HELPFUL.

### Community Advisory Group Operation

1. What is the primary goal or mission of the Community Advisory Group?

TO ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE E.P.A. THE COMMUNITY IS THE CONSTITUENT OF THE C.A.G AND THE E.P.A. IS THE CONSTITUENT OF THE FEDERAL AND TO SOME EXTENT THE STATE AGENCIES. THROUGH THE EXISTENCE OF THE C.A.G. ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION IS DISCUSSED AND FORWARDED TO RELATED PARTIES. WITH THE INTENT OF EDUCATING, COMMUNICATING AND HOPEFULLY SOLVING PROBLEMS

2. Does the group have a written mission statement? bylaws? standard operating procedures? Or ground rules? ☒ yes ☐ no

If yes, how useful has it/have they been in operating the community advisory group?

Not Useful

At All 1

(2)

3

4

5

Extremely

Useful

Please explain your answer. WHEN THE GROUP WAS FIRST FORMED IT SEEMED TO ME THAT PERSONAL AGENDAS DOMINATED THE MEETINGS. THE ATTENDING PUBLIC WAS NOT ALLOWED TO COMMENT UNTIL THE END OF MEETING. THIS HAS SINCE CHANGED AND I BELIEVE THE CAG IS ON TRACK AND MOVING AHEAD

3. How often does the Community Advisory Group meet? GENERALLY, EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

4. How are meetings publicized? BY WORD OF MOUTH AND HOPEFULLY THROUGH THE MEDIA -

5. How successful is the group in getting people to come to meetings and contribute their opinions during the meeting?

SINCE THEY HAVE ALLOWED THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE INPUT DURING MEETINGS IT HAS GIVEN FOLKS A FEELING OF "INVOLVEMENT" WHICH TO ME HAS INCREASED ATTENDANCE.

6. How does the Community Advisory Group get technical information/advice?

BECAUSE THE E.P.A. & STATE IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE C.A.G. MEETINGS 90% OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION COMES DIRECTLY THROUGH THE AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS SUGGESTED BY THE E.P.A. & STATE

7. Has the group applied to EPA for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) or for assistance through the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program?

☒ yes ☐ no

If not, why not? I BELIEVE THAT TOSC HAS BEEN REQUESTED BUT TO APPLY FOR T.A.G. THE C.A.G. HAS TO BE A FORMAL ENTITY WHICH IT IS NOT CURRENTLY. THIS IS MY UNDERSTANDING!

8. Do you feel access to technical information/advice is adequate to meet the Group's needs? If not, are you exploring other avenues for getting technical assistance/advice? If so, please explain.

YES! IT MAY SEEM ADEQUATE. BUT EFFORTS MADE BY OTHER MEMBERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOLIDIFIES THE EFFORT. E.G. A.A.R.G.

9. What, if any, administrative support does EPA provide to the Community Advisory Group? [Check all that apply]

- ☒ Prepare and place public notices in local newspapers
- ☒ Assist Community Advisory Group members prepare and distribute news releases, fact sheets, and other materials as needed
- ☒ Provide support for preparing and maintaining a mailing list
- ☐ Provide mailing services and postage
- ☒ Duplicate site-related documents for the Community Advisory Group to review
- ☐ Duplicate and distribute review comments by Community Advisory Group members
- ☒ Arrange for meeting space
- ☒ Prepare and distribute meeting notices
- ☐ Provide translators or interpreters to assist non-English speaking attendees at Community Advisory Group meetings
- ☒ Provide meeting facilitators when requested
- ☒ Take notes and prepare meeting summaries
- ☐ Other (Please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

THEY HAVE NOT! BUT THEY WOULD

10. What EPA support/assistance has been most useful in operating/maintaining the Community Advisory Group? ...Least useful? IN MY OPINION A REVIEW BY THE AGENCIES AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH MEETING, SETS THE FORMAT FOR THE DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. WITHOUT THIS UPDATE A LACK OF FULL COVERAGE BY ALL CONCERNED WOULD LEAVE A VOID IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EPA C.A.G. MEETINGS.

11. What else could EPA do to assist your efforts? I WOULD SIMPLY REPLY. THAT THE E.P.A. WITH ITS CURRENT LIBBY "TEAM" HAS BEEN UPFRONT, HONEST, AND VERY PROFESSIONAL IN ITS REVIEW AND ACTIONS RELATING TO THE ASBESTOS ISSUE. JUST REMAIN THAT WAY AND ALL WILL GO WELL.

12. Other than meetings, does the Community Advisory Group sponsor other activities? (tutoring programs, neighborhood beautification activities, sports activities, etc., for example)? ☐ yes ☐ no THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE

C.A.G. SPONSOR BUT TO MY KNOWLEDGE THE C.A.G. AS AN ENTITY DOES NOT. OF COURSE WE ALL SPONSOR THE "ASBESTOS VICTIMS."

13. Are there any changes you'd like to see to the way the group operates? THERE ARE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE C.A.G. THESE ISSUES ARE BROUGHT TO THE MEETING AND THE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED OR REQUIRED TO VOTE WITHOUT HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY REVIEW THE INFORMATION PRESENTED - THE LETTER WRITTING WAS A HANG-UP FOR QUITE A WHILE BUT THE FACILITATOR HAS TAKEN THAT RESPONSIBILITY ON AND IT SEEMS TO BE COVERING THE NEED.  
**Overall Community Advisory Group Effectiveness**

1. Has the Community Advisory Group been an effective way of getting everyone with an interest in site decisions to talk with each other? ☒ yes ☐ no

2. What kinds of communications problems remain? UNLIKE MOST MEETINGS. IT SEEMS TO BE HUMAN NATURE TO GO HOME AND NOT RELATE. OR GET INVOLVED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. I WOULD HOPE THAT THESE MEMBERS GO BACK TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND PROVIDE THE INFORMATION / STATUS TO THEM AFTER MEETINGS. E.G. - CITY HALL

3. In your opinion, has formation of the Community Advisory Group allowed you and other community members to be more informed and involved in the investigation and cleanup process in Libby? ☒ yes ☐ no How so? Or Why not? IT HAS. PROVIDED A "MEETING PLACE" TO PROVIDE INPUT, BECOME ACCURATELY INFORMED, AND TO SHARE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FRUSTRATIONS.

4. Did formation of the Community Advisory Group change the relationship between the community and EPA? ☒ yes ☐ no

5. Did it improve? How? or Why not? THE C.A.G. HAS IMPROVED DUE TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE E.P.A. IN MY OPINION THE E.P.A. HAS PROVIDED A VERY SINCERE LEVEL OF TRUST AND SINCERITY IN THIS COMMUNITY. WE HAVE COME TO RELY AND EXPECT OF THEM.

6. Overall, do you think the community has (☒ more, ( ) about the same, or ( ) less influence in decisions about the site since the Community Advisory Group was formed? THE C.A.G. IS "THE" INFLUENCE IN DECISIONS ABOUT THE SITE. THE C.A.G. IS THE COMMUNITY.

7. Do you think the community as a whole has benefitted from the Community Advisory Group's involvement at the site? ☒ yes ☐ no How so? Or Why not?

WE HAVE COME FROM A C.A.G. MEMBERSHIP THAT BASICALLY WAS ASSOCIATED "WITH PERSONAL AGENDAS" TO A GROUP OF DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO HAVE MERGED THEIR CONCERNS WITH THOSE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS AND IN THE LONG RUN - THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

#### Wrap-Up

1. Based on your experience, what overall suggestions would you offer to other communities that want to form a Community Advisory Group?

- IN MY OPINION IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO FORM A FORMAL C.A.G. WHICH THEN ALLOWS IT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL GRANTS (T.A.G.).

- ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. (THE ATTENDANCE HAS IMPROVED AND SO HAVE PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES.

2. Is there anything I should have asked about or anything else you would like to add?

WE HAVE A DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE GROUP WE HAVE TO DEAL

WITH IN LIBBY. THE C.A.G. IS THE FORT THAT IS INFORMED

AND ABLE TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your opinions. Your input will allow EPA to improve its support to community advisory groups like yours throughout the country. We appreciate your involvement. **Please mail this form to:**

Leslie Leahy (5204G)  
EPA Community Involvement and Outreach Center  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

You may drop this form off at the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave. in Libby for mailing.

I WRITE THIS IN TERMS OF REFLECTING BACK OVER THE PAST YEAR. THE "ASBESTOS ISSUE" HAS TAKEN ON SO MANY DIFFERENT TWISTS AND TURNS THAT IN MY OPINION WERE NOT EVEN CONSIDERED IN THE INITIAL DIAGNOSIS.

X - SINCE IT WAS NOT ONLY OUR MINE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT WERE VICTIMS OF ASBESTOSIS. JUST WHAT LEVEL OF EXPOSURE DOES THIS POPULATION COME UNDER IN ORDER TO BE DIAGNOSED? WE NEED TO KNOW THIS.

- OUR LONG TERM CARE FOR THOSE FOLKS WHO ARE VICTIMS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE LATENCY PERIOD NOW BUT DO NOT SHOW ABNORMALITIES IN THEIR LUNGS.

X - THE CLEAN-UP OF VERMICULITE-ASBESTOS IN LIBBY

THERE IS A STIGMA WHICH WILL REMAIN WITH US UNLESS THERE IS A VERY THOROUGH EFFORT TO CLEAN UP HOMES, GARDENS, SCHOOLS, COMMERCIAL SITES, ETC. THE PHASE-II IS IMPORTANT FOR RESEARCH BUT FOLKS WANT THEIR PROPERTIES CLEANED UP

- THE ORIGINAL SCREENING OF 6,000+ FOLKS HAS BROUGHT A CONCERN TO MY WIFE AND I. IF YOU TAKE THE ORIGINAL DATA OF 1000 PEOPLE SUMMARIZED BY ATSDAR. THREE OUT OF TEN SHOW ABNORMALITIES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEE OUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION AND DIAGNOSIS. IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE "ACTUAL" NUMBER OF THAT THIRTY PERCENT WHO TRULY DO HAVE ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A PERSONAL FOLLOW-UP OF THOSE FOLKS WHO WERE NOTIFIED OF "ABNORMALITIES".

X - I HAVE TALKED TO SOME OF THESE PEOPLE AND THE MIND SET IS VERY FRUSTRATING. EDUCATING IS A VERY POWERFUL TOOL BUT IT IS NOT THE SOLUTION. E.G. A FOLLOW-UP AT DR. WHITHOUSES CLINIC WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 1500<sup>00</sup>. INSURANCE COVERAGE (MEDICARE) IS NOT A VALID CLAIM.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OURSELVES

Mal Lerch M.D.